

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 02870 200822Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-07 DOTE-00 FAA-00 /065 W
-----008782 200856Z /20

R 200730Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3937
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
COMMANDANT CG WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2870

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NO
SUBJECT: SV LEADER SAYS HE WILL EXPOSE GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF
LORAN C QUESTION

REF: OSLO 2769

SUMMARY: THE SOCIALIST LEFT PARTY'S LEADER HAS NOW SAID HE
WILL JOIN HIS PARTY NEWSPAPER IN A CAMPAIGN TO EXPOSE
GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF THE LORAN C COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
WITH THE U.S. THIS MAKES IT ALMOST CERTAIN THAT LORAN C
WILL BE AN ELECTION ISSUE AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE CAUTIOUS
IN HANDLING MATTERS RELATED TO THE NAVIGATION PROJECT. END
SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 15 SOCIALIST LEFT PARTY (SV) LEADER AND STORTINGS
REPRESENTATIVE, BERGE FURRE, JOINED HIS PARTY'S NEWSPAPER
"NY TID" IN A CAMPAIGN TO REVEAL ALL ABOUT WHAT THEY
DESCRIBE AS THE GOVERNMENT'S MISHANDLING OF THE LORAN C
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PAGE 02 OSLO 02870 200822Z

NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE U.S.

2. ON JUNE 15 FURRE INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT AND THE
STORTING BY LETTER THAT UNLESS THE SECRET PORTION OF THE
STORTING'S SCHEI REPORT IS PUBLISHED AND A PUBLIC INVESTI-
GATING COMMISSION IS ESTABLISHED TO LOOK INTO THE
QUESTION, HE WILL BREAK HIS PARLIAMENTARY OATH OF SECRECY

AND TELL EVERYTHING HE KNOWS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE LORAN C MATTER. THE SCHEI REPORT EXONERATED THE GON FROM EARLIER CHARGES THAT IT HAD MISHANDLED LORAN C.

3. FURRE EMPHASIZED THAT HE DID NOT LEAK THE INFORMATION AT THE SECRET STORTING SESSION LAST WEEK (REFTEL). BUT HE SAID HE IS WILLING TO RISK IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS TO AIR THE FACTS ON THE CASE AND THAT HE IS PREPARED TO TELL ALL HE KNOWS ABOUT THE MATTER.

4. FURRE SAID THE LORAN C SYSTEM WAS INTALLED IN NORWAY UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE U.S. THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM WAS MILITARY ALTHOUGH THE U.S. OFFICIALS ENCOURAGED GON AUTHORITIES TO DRESS IT UP AS A CIVILIAN SYSTEM. U.S. SUBMARINES WITH NUCLEAR MISSILES, HE CLAIMS, DEPENDED ON LORAN FOR STATIONING AND SIGHTING CIVIL AND MILITARY TARGETS, THUS VIOLATING NORWAY'S POLICIES AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND FOREIGN TROOPS ON NORWEGIAN SOIL IN PEACE TIME AND MAKING THE LORAN STATIONS LIKELY TARGETS FOR FOREIGN MILITARY ATTACK.

5. HE CONTENTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOODWINKED THE STORTING IN 1960 BY GIVING FALSE INFORMATION TO PARLIAMENT ABOUT THE PROJECT. ON THE ADVICE OF U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT LET PARLIAMENT BELIEVE THE LORAN C PROJECT WAS ONE THAT PARLIAMENT HAD ALREADY APPROVED.

6. COMMENT: THERE NOW SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT FURRE AND HIS PARTY'S PRESS WILL DRAG THE LORAN C ISSUE
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PAGE 03 OSLO 02870 200822Z

THROUGH THE PRESS ONCE AGAIN. THE REASONS FOR THEIR EFFORTS ARE NO DOUBT TO SEEK TO SCRAPE UP A LIVELY ELECTION ISSUE. SINCE ONE OF THE ISSUES ON WHICH SV MEMBERS STILL AGREE IS OPPOSITION TO NORWAY'S SECURITY POLICY, THE LORAN QUESTION HAS BEEN A CONTINUING SV TARGET.

7. FURRE AND "NY TID" HAVE FOCUSED THEIR ATTENTION ON A PROCEDURAL RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVE CHARGE; THAT IS, THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ABETTED BY THE U.S. MISLED PARLIAMENT. BUT WHILE HE HAS NOT EMPHASIZED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE LORAN C CASE HE MAY STILL HAVE TO GET INTO SUBSTANCE TO ESTABLISH THE CASE IS WORTH THE EFFORT.

8. THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS FURRE'S REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION AND THE STORTING, ALREADY SEIZED WITH THE QUESTION OF INVESTIGATING THE LEAK ON THE CASE WHICH LED TO LAST WEEK'S "NY TID" CRITICISM OF STORTING SECRECY, WILL BE ENGAGED WITH THE ISSUE. ALL OF THIS WILL KEEP THE MATTER IN THE PRESS AND BEFORE THE PUBLIC WHICH IS A GOOD PART OF

FURRE'S OBJECTIVE.

9. WHETHER IT IS REALLY A WINNING CAMPAIGN ISSUE IS ANOTHER MATTER. IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY THAT MANY VOTES WILL BE SWAYED BY LORAN C. IN FACT, THE SV CHARGES MAY BACKFIRE, CONVINCING MANY NORWEGIANS THAT THEIR SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE SECURITY RELIABILITY OF THE LEFTIST PARTY ARE WELL-FOUNDED. AND EVEN IF THE SV SUCCEEDS IN EMBARRASSING THE GOVERNMENT IT IS BY NO MEANS CLEAR SV WILL GAIN; IN FACT, IT IS PERHAPS MORE LIKELY THAT THE NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES WOULD PICK UP MANY OF THE VOTERS WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THIS SECURITY REALTED QUESTION. WHATEVER THE LOCAL EFFECT, IT SEEMS CLEAR NOW THAT LORAN C WILL BE IN THE PRESS THROUGH THE ELCTIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE CHARY IN FURTHER HANDLING ISSUES RELATED TO IT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770219-0272
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770639/aaaabinb.tel
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Litigation History:
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